

REMARKS

Attorney for Applicants Catharina J. Chin Eng informed Examiner Michele Flood by telephone on April 3, 2006 that the cross-reference section of the application requires certain amendments. In response to Examiner's Flood instructions, Applicants submit this Amendment to update the priority information of this application.

Specifically, the specification has been amended to indicate that prior U.S. Patent Application No. 09/902,226 has issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,607,757. The specification has also been amended to point out that prior U.S. Patent Application No. 09/492,921 is a continuation-in-part of International Patent Application No. PCT/EP98/04770, filed July 30, 1998.

Applicants submit that the priority claim to International Patent Application No. PCT/EP98/04770 was timely made during the prosecution of the present application. The copy of the executed declaration from prior U.S. Patent Application No. 09/492,921 that was filed concurrently with the filing of the present application on June 30, 2003 correctly indicates that this application claims priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. § 120 to International Patent Application No. PCT/EP98/04770, filed July 30, 1998. The priority claim was acknowledged by the United States Patent and Trademark Office in the Filing Receipt mailed September 26, 2003.

Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments and remarks made herein into the file history of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 3, 2006

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